Today's News - Thursday, October 14, 2010

- Zumthor tapped to tackle 2011 Serpentine Gallery ("design folk probably won't be too bothered by the rule-bending").
- Speck offers up the 10 Worst Things About Suburban Sprawl: "it is a good time to step back and remind ourselves what we're still up against" (great slide show essay with some most amusing captions).
- Boulton calls for architects to lead urban growth: "It is our civic duty to engage the realms outside of our day-to-day firm operations and help guide the evolution of the places we live in. What better way to assert that Architecture Matters."
- Q&A with BSA President Chan: he has "distinct views of what a city should be and what his profession can accomplish."
- Kamin on Chicago's Go to 2040 initiative "shaped by an era of dwindling resources and, perhaps, lowered expectations about what planning can achieve."
- Litt x 2: latest renderings of Cleveland Medical Mart "are highly encouraging," though LMN Architects "might be trying to cram too many ideas into the design." + The project's landscape architect explains how the team is "deeply considering the four seasons in the design process."
- Q&A with Van Valkenburgh re: "ecological urbanism" and "landscape urbanism," terms that are very important to what he calls "the emancipation of landscape architecture."
- Beha and Gensler team to develop New England Conservatory's Campus Master Plan.
- More details on UNESCO's plan to conserve Hassan Fathy's New Gourna village (great pix).
- Bahrain's Saar Central is completed, with 82 villas "ranging from simply elegant to modern to luxurious."
- It's being called the "bonfire of the quangos" as the U.K. axes and reorganizes hundreds of them (CABE is safe - so far).
- City Gallery Prague completes renovations on an artist's home, now open to the public again.
- LaBarre on "I-am-kind-of-an-ET" designer's first foray into architecture: a quirky eco-retreat "from the queen of quirk herself."
- Foster rebuilds Bucky's Dymaxion car - this becomes #4 (great images and links).
- Restoration of the Century winners announced (alas, pix but no mention of the architects...oh well).

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Architect Of Next Year's Serpentine Pavilion Announced: Peter Zumthor...Serpentine Gallery has played a little fast and loose with Pavilion rules, which state that the chosen architect should not have built in England before: [his] practice is currently at work on a project for [Alain de Botton's] Living Architecture. Given the likelihood of having Zumthor actually build something permanent in London, design folk probably won't be too bothered by the rule-bending.- Londonist

'Suburban Nation': 10 Worst Things About Suburban Sprawl: ...as sprawl has quietly been identified as a central cause behind a growing list of mounting national crises...it is a good time to step back and remind ourselves what we're still up against. By Jeff Speck -- Duany Plater-Zyber [slide show]- Huffington Post

Architects should lead urban growth: Why aren't architects leading the pack when it comes to urban redevelopment? It is our civic duty to engage the realms outside of our day-to-day firm operations and help guide the evolution of the places we live in...we can be part of making places great. What better way to assert that Architecture Matters. By W. Stephen Boulton, MRAIC, Architecture Canada | RAIC- Daily Commercial News (Canada)

Architecture can very simply enhance city life: Lawrence A. Chan, the president of the Boston Society of Architects...has distinct views of what a city should be and what his profession can accomplish. -- Chan Krieger Sieniewicz- Boston Globe

Regional planners unveil vision for Chicago area in 2040: ...deliberately echoes Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett's Plan of Chicago...shaped by an era of dwindling resources and, perhaps, lowered expectations about what planning can achieve...calls for new patterns of growth..."the message from Go to 2040 seems to be: 'Make no big plans. We have no money.'" By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

LMN Architects unveil detailed concept for the Cleveland Medical Mart: ...latest renderings...are highly encouraging...design includes two tricky and unresolved issues...might be trying to cram too many ideas into the design...For now, the project offers a look at architecture in the making. Each new version...gets better. For Cleveland, that's definitely the right direction. By Steven Litt -- Gustafson Guthrie Nichol [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Winter on the Mall? Designers of the medical mart and convention center are coming up with plans..."Certainly, we are deeply considering the four seasons in the design process, as we must do in all projects and climates" By Steven Litt -- LMN Architects; Gustafston Guthrie Nichol- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Interview with Michael Van Valkenburgh: What is ecological urbanism? How does a visitor know they are in an ecologically urbanist place? ..."'ecological urbanism,' and "'landscape urbanism'...are new terms for very old ideas in the field of landscape architecture. These terms are very important to what I like to call the emancipation of landscape architecture." [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

New England Conservatory Announces Selection of Ann Beha Architects to Design Proposed Campus Master Plan: ...will collaborate with the national firm of Gensler...marks the first step in a process that will include...ample opportunities to share information with the surrounding community and solicit input...- Fenway News (Boston)

Architecture for the poor: ...a UNESCO scheme to conserve and revive architect Hassan Fathy's New Gourna village on the west bank at Luxor...One of the main goals of the initiative...would be to draw attention to the pioneering ideas and philosophy of Fathy himself and to demonstrate their contemporary relevance in the international centre. [images]- Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo, Egypt)

Saar Central construction completed: ...offers a mix of 82 villas of varied size and appointment, ranging from simply elegant to modern to luxurious at the popular Saar area of Bahrain. -- Baker Wilkins & Smith; Modern Architect- TradeArabia Business News

Cabe's future still uncertain as quango cull kicks off: Cabe, the Homes & Communities Agency and English Heritage have survived the first bonfire of the quangos – in part...The Design Council is to become a charity...will cost thousands of public sector workers their jobs...The cost of winding up the quangos is likely to run into hundreds of millions of pounds. -- Paul Finch- BD/Building Design (UK)

A talking house: The former residence of artist František Bílek is again open to the public...City Gallery Prague has completed its renovations on artist's home, which he designed and built himself..."you would not find many of this type of building in Hradcany." -- Zdene(k Lukeš [images]- The Prague Post

An Experimental (and Faintly Cultish) Eco-Lodge Rises in Africa: Matali "I-am-kind-of-an-ET" Crasset's first foray into architecture is every bit as otherworldly as the designer herself...a quirky "eco-retreat" is rising from the queen of quirk herself...Matali Crasset...The Dar HI lodge in the tiny village of Nafta, Tunisia, is a sort of spa-cum-walled city... By Suzanne LaBarre [images, links]- Fast Company

Norman Foster rebuilds Bucky Fuller's Dymaxion car: ...as part of a Madrid retrospective on Buckminster Fuller's work...Fuller's collaborator for 12 years has rebuilt his hero's Dymaxion car. -- Foster + Partners [images, video, links]- Gizmag (Australia)

Restoration of the century - the winners: ...judges were unusually sorry to have to choose their winners. In large part, this was because visiting the 15 shortlisted properties across the five regions of England was so inspiring. [images]- Country Life Magazine (UK)

Book Review: "Architecture and Beauty: Conversations with Architects about a Troubled Relationship": Yael Reisner exuberantly interviews architects about beauty. Any of you architects seen Mr. Keats Lately? By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Flex Space: AECOM Design + Planning has a New York office that's as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot. -- Michielli + Wyetzner Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Resnick Pavilion, LACMA Expansion - Phase II, Los Angeles

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